

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DEAE-00 SNM-02 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 027453

R 140605Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 614

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2504

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH BM

SUBJ: THAI-BURMESE RELATIONS

1. BURMESE AMBASSADOR TUN WIN TOLD DCM FEBRUARY 13 THAT BURMESE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED VISIT BY THAI NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE IN MAY. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS INFORMED OF THIS DECISION EARLIER THE SAME DAY. TUN WIN SAID THIS WOULD BE FIRST VISIT BY SUCH A GROUP FROM THAILAND FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS.

2. TUN WIN ALSO INDICATED HIS AWARENESS OF RECENT RTG DECISION TO STOP SUPPORT TO BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS EXCELLENT MOVE, AND IMPLIED THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN BASIS FOR RANGOON'S DECISION ON DEFENCE COLLEGE VISIT, ALTHOUGH HE SPECULATED THAT IT WOULD STILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE NEW POLICY TO FILTER DOWN TO THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

3. TUN WIN SAID ALSO THAT HE HAD OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT JIMMY YANG, RECENTLY PICKED UP BY THE THAI POLICE, BE TURNED OVER TO BURMESE AUTHORITIES. WHILE HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY TO THIS REQUEST, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT

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RTG WOULD AT THE VERY LEAST EXPEL YANG FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY

INTO THAILAND. DCM, WHO EARLIER IN THE DAY HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL PRACHUAB, SAID THAT WHILE THERE WERE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH YANG, THERE SEEMED TO BE A GOOD CHANCE THAT HE WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM THAILAND.

4. THESE ARE ADDITIONAL STRAWS IN THE WIND INDICATING CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND BURMA. GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTACTS, SUCH AS NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE VISIT, MAY PAVE WAY FOR DIRECT ACROSS-THE-BORDER CONTACT ON MATTERS SUCH AS NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THAI ON DESIRABILITY OF SUCH CONTACTS.
KINTNER

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